

TAYSIDE AND CENTRAL SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP

Minute of Meeting of the Tayside and Central Scotland Transport Partnership held in the Committee Room 1, 14 City Square, on Tuesday 14 March 2017 at 10.30am.

Present: Councillors Lynne Devine and Ronnie Proctor (Angus Council), Councillors Brian Gordon and Will Dawson (Dundee City Council); Councillors Mike Barnacle, John Kellas and Alan Livingstone, (Perth & Kinross Council); Councillor Alycia Hayes (Stirling Council); Trudi Craggs, Mark Craske, Doug Fleming, Gavin Roser and David Scotney (Members).

In Attendance: E Guthrie (Director); N Gardiner, N Gillespie, A Roger and M Scott (Tactran); G Taylor (Secretary); N Gellatly (Dundee City Council); A Deans and C Robertson (Perth & Kinross Council); B Roberts (Stirling Council); D Littlejohn (Tay Cities Deal); A Shaw (KPMG).

Apologies for absence were received from: Councillor Bill Campbell (Dundee City Council); Councillor Danny Gibson (Stirling Council).

Councillor Will Dawson, Chair, Presiding

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

T Craggs declared an interest in relation to Item 11 on the Planning Review.

2. MINUTE OF MEETING OF 6 DECEMBER 2016

The minute of meeting of the Tayside and Central Scotland Transport Partnership of 6 December 2016 was submitted and approved as a correct record.

3. LOCAL ISSUES PRESENTATION : TAY CITIES DEAL

D Littlejohn, Head of Tay Cities Deal, gave a [presentation](#) updating progress with the Tay Cities Deal and outlining the aims, objectives and proposed projects and interventions contained within the City Deal recently approved by the 4 Tay Cities partner Councils and formally submitted to the Scottish and UK Governments on 2 March 2017. It was anticipated that negotiations over the coming months would culminate in conclusion of a Heads of Agreement with Governments in the autumn of 2017.

The Director referred to the close relationship between the Tay Cities Deal and the Regional Transport Strategy and RTS Delivery Plan, noting that many of the Connected Tay elements of the Tay Cities Deal were already included in and had been informed by the RTS and RTS Delivery Plan.

The Chair thanked D Littlejohn for his presentation and invited the Director to present his related report on City Deals, prior to inviting questions or comments on both items.

4. CITY DEALS

There was submitted a report by the Director (RTP/17/01) updating the Partnership on developments with the Tay Cities Deal and asking the Partnership to remit the Director to progress discussions with partner Councils, City Deal promoters and Transport Scotland on the future implications of proposals contained within the Tay Cities Deal (TCD) and to report back to the Partnership meeting on 13 June 2017.

The Director advised the report focussed on the Empowered Tay aspects of the TCD and highlighted legislative, operational, resources and other issues that will require to be considered and addressed should new regional governance arrangements for economic development, land-use and transport planning, as proposed in the TCD, be progressed. As noted in the report and in the presentation by D Littlejohn, it is expected that implementation of the proposed changes will require formal consultation and Ministerial approval in accordance with requirements and processes set out in the Transport Act (Scotland) 2005, and may also require legislative change.

Councillor Hayes noted that the TCD raised important issues from a Stirling perspective, including whether Stirling would need to become part of another RTP. She considered that this would be detrimental given the economic and social importance of the wider Stirling Council area's links to the east and north east of Scotland, including with the remainder of the Tactran region.

G Roser complimented D Littlejohn on his presentation and asked a series of questions:

1. Will each City Deal receive a broadly equivalent financial allocation from Governments?
2. Has population trends within urban areas been taken in account?
3. What collaboration model will be implemented for City Deals going forward – e.g. should the Strathclyde region model be adopted?
4. Will organisations such as Chambers of Commerce also be merged to reflect City Deal regions rather than maintaining 3 or 4?

D Littlejohn emphasised that the City deals are negotiations between regions and the UK and Scottish Governments on needs and opportunities to support regional economic growth and, as a consequence, there is no funding formula or distributional mechanism between regions. The Scottish Cities Alliance has looked at and agreed the economic geographies for each city region and Scottish Government is not being prescriptive on how regions come together. This means there is no specific model for collaboration and that each part of Scotland will develop to suit local and regional circumstances. There is a recognition that some services are better delivered at a regional level and some better at a local Council or community level. Each project will be

considered at the appropriate scale for delivery and most local authority specific decisions will still be made at a Council level. The regional economic and spatial planning strategies take account of population trends and projections, including allowance for organic growth, and seek to ensure that urban and rural residents have access to employment and other opportunities.

Councillor Kellas noted the importance of recognising and promoting with businesses, communities and new Councils the positive benefits and growth opportunities associated with the City Deals to ensure “The Big Picture” is understood when infrastructure projects and other possible disruption begins. The Chair highlighted and welcomed the publication of the TCD proposal which meant information was already in the public domain. D Littlejohn agreed to raise this communication point with the TCD Management Group.

T Craggs asked whether any other City Deals had taken the approach of transfer of statutory duties. D Littlejohn confirmed none had yet but that other City Deals are interested to see the outcomes of the TCD approach. The Director advised that SEStran is considering moving towards a model 3 RTP in support of the Edinburgh City Deal and also noted that any transfer of Tactran’s statutory duties would also have potential implications for SEStran and, potentially, all RTPs. The Director also noted that the current Planning Review proposals for regional partnership approaches to infrastructure and other delivery and the National Transport Strategy Review, which will include a review of transport governance arrangements, will also be relevant to and will potentially influence any change to RTP governance going forward.

T Craggs asked if there would be any conflict between the Tay Cities Joint Committee (TCJC), as a non-statutory body, taking on the powers and duties of another statutory body. D Littlejohn advised that the composition of the Committee would ensure this is not an issue.

T Craggs asked about the mechanism for approving financial spend. D Littlejohn advised Capital programmes would still be under control of Councils, whereas the TCJC would approve the delivery of the projects contained within the TCD and the delivery of the City Deal outcomes.

M Craske commended the proposal for a single public transport unit and asked whether this might follow the Transport for London model. D Littlejohn advised that these matters and options had not yet been considered in detail. The Director noted that the NTS and transport governance review and the Transport Bill to be consulted on later in 2017 were also issues and opportunities which would need to be taken into account.

Councillor Proctor raised the issue of rural public transport and accessibility to employment and other services and opportunities and hoped that City Deals and the proposals for a unified public transport unit would also be an opportunity to bring forward a long term solution to overcoming rural accessibility problems.

Councillor Devine highlighted and hoped that the opportunities afforded by considering social enterprise as a way forward in tackling economic and social problems across the board would also be considered.

Resolved:

- (i) To note the developments and potential implications of the Tay Cities Deal, as outlined within the report; and
- (ii) To remit the Director to progress discussions with partner Councils, City Deal promoters and Transport Scotland on the issues raised and to report back to the next meeting on the Partnership.

5. REVIEW OF RISK REGISTER

There was submitted a joint report by the Director and Treasurer (RTP/17/02) presenting the Partnership's Risk Register for annual review and approval by the Partnership.

The Director highlighted revisions which had been made to assessment and weighting of a number of management and operational risks and their ownership, to reflect the revised management and staffing structure and also current uncertainties and risks associated with deferral of appointing to staff vacancies to take account of emerging regional governance proposals under City Deals. Updating had also included reflecting the new opportunity which City Deals offered in terms of supporting and progressing implementation of the RTS and Delivery Plan.

Resolved:

- (i) To approve the Risk Register at Appendix A to the report; and
- (ii) To agree to receive a further report reviewing and updating the Risk Register not later than March 2018.

6. AUDIT STRATEGY 2016/17

There was submitted a joint report by the Treasurer and Director (RTP/17/03) presenting the Audit Strategy for financial year 2016/17.

A Shaw, Director, KPMG drew members attention to the significant risks and headlines as outlined on page 3 of the Audit Strategy.

Resolved:

- (i) To note the Audit Strategy as detailed in Appendix A to the report.

7. 2016/17 REVENUE PROGRAMME AND MONITORING

There was submitted a joint report by the Director and Treasurer (RTP/17/04) providing a monitoring update on the 2016/17 Revenue Budget and Programme.

Councillor Livingstone requested an update on the Montrose Port study that Tactran had provided a £3,000 contribution towards. The Director advised the

report on the study was not yet available but this would be presented to a future Partnership meeting once it was available.

Resolved:

- (i) To note the position regarding Core Revenue expenditure as at 31 January 2017 as detailed in the report and Appendix A to the report;
- (ii) To note progress on the 2016/17 RTS Revenue Programme and related expenditure as discussed in sections 3.4 – 3.43 of the report and detailed in Appendix B; and
- (iii) To agree that any final year end underspend in Core and RTS Revenue expenditure is carried forward as Deferred Income to supplement the 2017/18 Revenue Programme.

8. 2017/18 REVENUE BUDGET AND PROGRAMME

There was submitted a joint report by the Director and Treasurer (RTP/17/05) updating the Partnership on Scottish Government and partner Council contributions towards the Partnership's 2017/18 Revenue Budget and seeking approval of a proposed 2017/18 Revenue Programme.

D Scotney requested an explanation of the proposed allocation of funding towards Strategic Connectivity whilst making no funding provision for strategic Park & Ride. The Director advised that the allocations within the proposed 2017/18 Revenue Programme reflected the anticipation that funding for development and delivery of further strategic Park & Ride facilities around cities would now form part of City Deals, with no further funding contribution requirement from Tactran whilst other strategic connectivity proposals, including specifically the development of a Regional Transport Model, would require match-funding and resource input from Tactran.

Councillor Proctor left the meeting.

Resolved:

- (i) To note partner Councils' approval of requested Revenue contributions towards the approved 2017/18 Core Budget;
- (ii) To note the confirmed award of Scottish Government Grant in Aid of up to £522,750 in 2017/18; and
- (iii) To approve an initial 2017/18 Revenue Programme as detailed in sections 3.3 – 3.18 of the report and to remit approval of a finalised 2017/18 Programme to the Partnership's next meeting on 13 June 2017.

9. ACTIVE TRAVEL PROGRESS UPDATE

There was submitted a joint report by the Active Travel Officer and Cycle Training and Development Officer (RTP/17/06) providing an update on the CAPS 2017 – 2020 Refresh, the award of funding from the 2016/17 Tactran Active Travel Grant scheme and a general update on Active Travel activity undertaken by the Active Travel Officer and Cycle Training and Development Officer.

Councillor Livingstone left the meeting.

Councillor Gordon asked if there had been any update on usage numbers for the “Bike N Go” initiative at railway stations. N Gillespie confirmed that, whilst requests for this information have been made to Abellio ScotRail no information has yet been made available, but that it remained the intention to report on this when information was made available.

Councillor Barnacle requested an update on the Perth & Kinross Green Routes pilot and whether Tactran funding was available to support further development of this initiative, which had been well received. N Gillespie advised that Tactran had contributed Active Travel Grant funding to an earlier phase of the pilot but that, as yet, no funding requests to support further development had been received. She confirmed that the opportunity remained to support development from the 2017/18 Active Travel Grant and Community Links programme and would liaise with Perth & Kinross officers on this.

Resolved:

- (i) To note the refresh of the Cycling Action Plan for Scotland (CAPS) for the period covering 2017 – 2020;
- (ii) To note the award of grant funding from the 2016/17 Active Travel Grant scheme for projects as detailed in the report; and
- (iii) To note the progress on various active travel activities undertaken by the Active Travel Officer and Cycle Training and Development Officer as outlined in the report.

10. NATIONAL TRANSPORT STRATEGY REVIEW

There was submitted a report by the Director (RTP/17/07) seeking the Partnership’s approval of a proposed response to the National Transport Strategy Early Engagement consultation.

Resolved

- (i) To approve the proposed response to the National Transport Strategy Early Engagement consultation as detailed in Appendix A to the report.

11. PLANNING REVIEW

There was submitted a report by the Director (RTP/17/08) seeking the Partnership’s approval of a proposed response to the Scottish Government’s Places, People and Planning consultation. The Director noted that the proposed response focussed on those elements of the consultation which were considered to be directly relevant and related to the Partnership’s statutory role as a Key Agency in Development Planning, and did not seek to respond on matters for which the Partnership had no direct, or indirect, policy or operational responsibility or input to.

T Craggs queried the proposed response to Question 6 at Appendix B, which appeared to be contradictory. The Director agreed and confirmed that this would be amended to reflect the view that approval in principle for allocated sites in Development Plans should only be given where proposals do not conflict with or prejudice delivery of the statutory Regional Transport Strategy.

Resolved

- (i) To approve the proposed response to the Scottish Government's Places, People and Planning consultation as outlined in Appendix B to the report, amended to reflect the agreed response to Question 6 of the consultation.

12. GENERAL CONSULTATIONS

There was submitted a report by the Director (RTP/17/09) seeking the Partnership's endorsement of joint RTP responses to consultation by the Scottish Parliament on the Scottish Government's Draft Climate Change Plan and the Scottish Parliament Public Petitions Committee's request for views on regulating bus services in Scotland and carrying out an enquiry into bringing bus services into common ownership.

Councillor Barnacle asked, in light of concerns about recent removal of intercity bus service stops at Park & Ride facilities, whether operators could be obliged or contracted to use Park & Ride facilities. The Director advised that, whilst such a requirement could be included in any transport authority contract for the operation of supported bus services, the vast majority of the intercity bus and coach services concerned are operated commercially. Consequently any such obligation or requirement can only be through encouragement and in agreement with the operators concerned.

Councillor Hayes raised the issue of the lack of public transport availability in rural areas which, from an economic perspective, severely impacted rural communities and residents' access to employment and other facilities. Consequently she encouraged RTPs to promote improvement to public transport in rural areas. The Director advised that this had been highlighted, and would continue to be raised, in ongoing discussions on the role of the bus through the National Bus Stakeholders Group. It was anticipated that proposals for enhancing the role of the bus in urban and rural Scotland would be included in a Transport Bill to be issued for consultation later in 2017 as part of the Scottish Government's Programme for Government, as reported on previously. It was noted that this and the review of the NTS present opportunities to raise the matter with other RTPs and nationally.

Councillor Kellas left the meeting.

Resolved

- (i) To endorse the joint RTP response to the Scottish Parliament consultation on Scottish Government's Draft Climate Change Plan, as detailed in Appendix A to the report; and

- (ii) To endorse the joint RTP response to the Scottish Parliament Public Petitions Committee's request for views on legislating to regulate bus services in Scotland and to carry out an inquiry into the benefits of bringing bus services in Scotland into common ownership, as detailed in Appendix B to the report.

13. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

There was submitted a report by the Director (RTP/17/10) seeking delegation of authority to the Executive Committee to approve reports which require to be published under the Equality Act 2010; the approval of proposed responses to Scottish Government consultations on Gender Representation on Public Boards and on proposed amendment to the Councillors Code of Conduct; updating the Partnership on staffing arrangements; and informing and updating Members on various operational, policy and other matters of interest and relevance to the Partnership.

Resolved:

- (i) To note the Executive Committee's approval of the 2015/16 Annual Report for publication and submission to Ministers;
- (ii) To agree to delegate authority to the Executive Committee to consider and approve for publication an updated Mainstreaming Report and Equality Outcomes Report, as required under the Equalities Act 2010 (Specific Duties) (Scotland) Regulations;
- (iii) To agree to respond to the Scottish Government consultation on Draft Gender Representation on Public Boards (Scotland) Bill, as outlined in sections 2.13 – 2.20 of the report;
- (iv) To agree to respond to the Scottish Government consultation on amendments to the Councillors Code of Conduct, as outlined in sections 2.21 – 2.28 of the report; and
- (v) To note the various updates and other information provided in the report and accompanying appendices.

The Director noted that this was the last Partnership meeting before the Council elections in May 2017 and thanked all Board members for their support, encouragement, guidance and input over the past 5 years.

14. MEMBERS ISSUES AND AOCB

Councillor Barnacle raised the issue of HGVs using car satnavs rather than freight specific devices and requested that Government be asked to press the haulage industry to use freight specific satnavs to help reduce the impact of inappropriate HGV routeing through and on communities. The Director confirmed that this has been raised previously with the road haulage industry through meetings of the regional Freight Quality Partnership and through RTP input to the Scottish Freight and Logistics Advisory Group (ScotFLAG).

Although it had been indicated it is unlikely that Government is willing to legislate on this matter the Director confirmed that these issues and concerns would continue to be raised through these channels.

15. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

10.30 am on Tuesday 13 June 2017 in Perth

10.30 am on Tuesday 12 September 2017 in Stirling

10.30 am on Tuesday 12 December 2017 in Forfar